Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said melting point difference is at least 5 °C.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said control nucleic acid and said test nucleic acid are amplified with identical primers.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said test nucleic acid and said control nucleic acid are amplified by polymerase chain reaction.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein two or more of said test nucleic acids and two or more of said control nucleic acids are present in the same sample.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said test nucleic acid is derived from a pathogen.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said detection is carried out in real-time.

33-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein only one of said detection probes is used and said detection is based on a melting curve of said test nucleic acid, wherein the melting curve of said control nucleic acid serves as an internal control of proper amplification.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein two of said detection probes are used, said probes forming a FRET pair.

37-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said deviation in nucleotide sequence is an exchange of an A or a T for a G or a C.

40-44. (Cancelled)

45-47. (Previously withdrawn)

48. (Currently amended) A method for qualitative or quantitative detection of a nucleic acid in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

adding a single-stranded control nucleic acid to said sample;

amplifying a test nucleic acid in said sample in the presence of at least one single-stranded detection probe that reversibly binds to a binding region of said test nucleic acid and enables detection of said test nucleic acid;

coamplifying said control nucleic acid together with said test nucleic acid,

wherein said control nucleic acid has a binding region that also binds said detection probe and has a nucleotide sequence having at least one deviation in comparison to said binding region of said test nucleic acid; and

said control nucleic acid consists essentially of the sequences necessary for amplification and for binding of said probe and no more than about 10% of additional nucleotides; and

wherein said test nucleic acid and said control nucleic acid form hybrids with said detection probe having melting points sufficiently different to analytically differentiate said hybrids during said qualitative detection, wherein said control nucleic acid and said probe essentially do not hybridize during said quantitative detection which is carried out at a temperature that is 2 °C to 10 °C below the melting point of said detection probe and said target nucleic acid.